

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-V-06-26

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Wednesday,  
June 3, 2026.

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 5, 2026.

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Saturday,  
July 25, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:** This emergency order closes the Aniak River drainage including the state waters of the Kuskokwim River in the “Aniak Box” at the confluence of the Aniak River and the Kuskokwim River to sport fishing for king salmon. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Aniak River drainage. All king salmon caught incidentally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

**REGULATION:** The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010(c)(3)(A) and (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(3)(G) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 5 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 25, 2026: when the king salmon sportfishing season ends in the Kuskokwim Drainage.

**5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area.**

(c)(3)(A) in the Aniak River drainage and Aniak Box, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) the bag and possession limit for pink, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit, other than king salmon, may not exceed three salmon;

(G) the Aniak Box is defined as: the state waters of the Kuskokwim River near Aniak, from a line formed between two points (lat 61°35.264' N, long 159°33.459' W) and lat 61°35.611' N, long 159°33.260' W), upstream to a line formed between two points (lat 61°35.308' N, long 159°29.167' W and lat 61°34.731' N, long 159°28.939' W).

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to: John Chythlook  
John Chythlook  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:** The *Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 07.365) allows for sport and commercial harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs. In 2025 the total estimated run for Kuskokwim River king salmon was approximately 151,529 and the spawning escapement was approximately 105,983. However, spawning escapement in the Aniak River drainage has remained low in recent years relative to all other spawning tributaries. For 2026, subsistence restrictions in the Aniak River and near its mouth (“Aniak Box” area) will again be implemented to help improve spawning escapement. Therefore, closing sport fishing for king salmon in the entire Aniak River drainage and Kuskokwim River waters within the “Aniak Box” is warranted.

**DISTRIBUTION:** The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 3 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.